

## Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 091215Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9934

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT: EGYPTIAN MEDIA ATTACK HUSAIN AND SARG

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING FOUR-DAY PAUSE, EGYPTIAN MEDIA HAVE  
SPOKEN OUT AGAINST HUSAIN DECISION RECONVENE JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT  
AND INVITE WEST BANK REPS TO ATTEND. PRESS SEIZES ON Wafa  
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PLO REJECTS HUSAIN DECISION AS VIOLATION OF RABAT  
RESOLUTION WHICH GAVE PLO SOLE AUTHORITY OVER PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS)  
AND CONTRASTS Wafa VERSION WITH SA'IQA ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PLO  
AND SARG WERE INFORMED BEFOREHAND. EGYPTIAN PRESS CONCLUDES THERE IS  
GRAVE CRISIS IN SARG, PLO-GOJ RELATIONS. AND THAT GOJ PRESS  
DRAWS CONCLUSION THAT HUSAIN AND SARG INTEREST IN PALESTINAIN  
AFFAIRS IS PURELY  
SELF-SEEKING. END SUMMARY.

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2. EGYPTIAN MEDIA HAVE FINALLY SPOKEN OUT AGAINST HUSAIN DECISION

TO RECONVENE JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT. ALL PAPERS FEBRUARY 9 REPORT Wafa ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PLO EXCOMM HAS REJECTED HUSAIN'S DECISION "REVIVE HKJ ROLE AT EXPENSE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, " AND THAT ARAFAT HAS SENT MESSAGES TO ARAB HEADS OF STATE PROTESTING CONVENING OF JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT. HEADS OF FATAH AND PLO CAIRO BUREAUS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH FONMIN FAHMY FEBRUARY 8. IN WHAT APPEARS TO US LOW-KEY STATEMENT, FAHMY IS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED THAT EGYPT DISAPPROVES OF ANY MEASURE WHICH COULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON PALESTINIAN CAUSE OR FUTURE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

3. PLO OFFICE HEAD, FOLLOWING MEETING FEB 8 WITH ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD

, ALSO SPOKE TO PRESS, SAYING HUSAIN'S APPROVAL OF RABAT RESOLUTION GIVING PLO SOLE RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINIANS WAS SIMPLY TACTICAL, AND PLO KNEW HUSAIN WOULD VIOLATE RESOLUTION AT TIME CONVENIENT FOR HIM. THIS TIME HAS NOW COME AS HUSAIN IS ABOUT TO DEPART FOR US, WHERE HE WILL AFFIRM WEST BANK IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT HE SPEAKS FOR PALESTINIANS THERE.

4. ARAB LEAGUE SYG, FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES, MADE STATEMENT THAT JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO HAD ON FEBRUARY 7 EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT HUSAIN HAD INVITED WEST BANK REPS TO AMMAN FOR PURPOSE OF "OFFICIALLY TERMINATING" PARLIAMENT. RIAD SAID HE WILL CONSULT WITH ARAB COUNTRIES ON ISSUE.

5. SA'IQA'S ZUHAYR MUHSIN IS ALSO QUOTED AT LENGTH IN ALL DAILIES AS ANNOUNCING PLO HAD KNOWN BEFOREHAND THAT GOJ WAS GETTING READY TO ANNOUNCE RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT AND THAT SUCH MEASURE "IS NOT CONSIDERED" VIOLATION OF RABAT RESOLUTION. MUHSIN REPORTEDLY SAID PLO EXCOMM HAD DECIDED "INVITATION" TO PARLIAMENT MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO SETTLEMENT OF LARGE NUMBER POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND LEGAL PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM WEST BANK ELECTIONS.

6. ALL OF ABOVE NEWS, WHICH WE ASSUME IS TAKEN FROM WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, IS REPORTED IN CONTEXT OF GRAVE CRISIS IN GOJ-SARG-PLO RELATIONS ALLEGEDLY GENERATED BY HUSAIN'S DECISION. AKHBAR BANNER HEADLINES GOES A STEP FURTHER: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"PLO ASKS EGYPT TO INTERVENE". PLO NEWSPAPER FILISTIN AL-THAWRA IS CITED AS HAVING LAUNCHED ATTACK ON HUSAIN BECAUSE HE CONSLUTED SYRIA AND SA'IQA BEFORE ANNOUNCING PARLIAMENT WOULD MEET. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN BEIRUT ARE CITED AS STATING ISSUE IS MADE PARTICULARLY DELICATE NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF CRISIS IN HKJ-PLO RELATIONS BUT ALSO BECAUSE ASAD HAS ANNOUNCED SYRIA HAD FOREKNOWLEDGE OF DECISION, WHICH MEANS SYRIA APPROVED OF HUSAIN'S ACTION. AHRAH EDITORIAL STATES

HUSAIN HAS VIOLATED RABAT RESOLUTION AND DEPARTED FROM POSITION TO WHICH HE IS COMMITTED. JORDAN HAS DEFINITE ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR SETTLEMENT, BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN GOJ SHOULD CLAIM FOR ITSELF ANY STATUS AS REPRESENTING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

7. COMMENT: ONCE AGAIN GOE HAS FOUND CUDGEL TO CLUB SYRIANS FOR THEIR PERFDY TO SACRED CAUSE OF PALESTINE. ISSUE HAS ALSO PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO "EXPOSE" HASHEMITE OPPORTUNISM. MUHSIN'S REMARKS, WHICH SEEM TO SHOW DEFINITE SPLIT BETWEEN FATAH AND SA'IQA VERSION OF EVENTS, GIVES EDITORIALISTS NEW OPPORTUNITY LASH OUT AT SYRIAN "TUTELAGE" OF IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF PLO. WITH Wafa SUGGESTING PLO IS AT LOGGERHEADS WITH KING HUSAIN, AND ASAD IMPLICATED BY FOREKNOWLEDGE OF HUSAIN'S ACTION, EGYPT HAS ONCE AGAIN, SEEN CHANCE UNDERLINE WHAT EGYPTIAN LEADERS REALLY BELIEVE: EGYPT IS NATURAL LEADER OF ARAB WORLD; HUSAIN IS MINOR FIGURE DISTINGUISHED BY QUALITIES OF DECEIT AND OPPORTUNISM; AND SYRIAN BA'ATH IS OUT FOR AREA DOMINATION TO DETRIMENT OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL INTEREST. HUSAIN'S REAL DIFFICULTIES IN COPING WITH LEGAL ASPECTS OF EAST BANK/WEST BANK ELECTION ISSUE ARE CONVENIENTLY AND TOTALLY OVERLOOKED BY CAIRO PRESS, WHICH HAS INSTEAD SEIZED ON PLO ANGER AT HUSAIN TO EMBELLISH EGYPT'S CREDENTIALS AS PALESTINAINS' BEST FRIEND. EILTS

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